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CHAPTER 8. HIGHWAY SAFETY

PART I. HIGHWAY SAFETY ACT OF 1966

§1351. RESPONSIBILITY FOR ADMINISTRATION VESTED IN GOVERNOR

A. The Governor, in addition to the other duties and responsibilities vested in him by the constitution and laws of this state, shall be responsible for the administration of highway safety programs in this state in conformity with the Highway Safety Act of 1966, enacted by the Congress of the United States of America as Public Law 89-564. He may contract and do all other things necessary to secure the full benefits available to this state under the provisions of the Highway Safety Act of 1966. In furtherance of such purpose the Governor may also cooperate with state, local and federal agencies, with private and public organizations and with individuals to the extent necessary to effectuate the purposes of that law and any amendments thereto.

B. The Governor may administer and carry out all programs of highway safety vested in him and all matters pertaining thereto through the Louisiana Highway Safety Commission; provided that all such programs for the state and its political subdivisions shall be administered in accordance with the provisions of the Highway Safety Act of 1966 and amendments thereto and such federal rules and regulations as may be adopted in implementation thereof.

PART II. LOUISIANA HIGHWAY SAFETY COMMISSION

§1352. LOUISIANA HIGHWAY SAFETY COMMISSION; CREATED, APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS; TERMS; VACANCIES

A. The Louisiana Highway Safety Commission is hereby created as a division of the Office of the Governor. The commission shall be composed of not more than twenty-one members, who shall be appointed by the Governor. At least one member shall be a resident and qualified elector of each of the congressional districts into which the state is divided. Members shall be appointed to serve at the pleasure of the Governor. Each appointment by the Governor shall be submitted to the Senate for confirmation, and beginning in 1984 every appointment confirmed by the Senate shall again be submitted by the Governor to the Senate for confirmation every two years after the initial confirmation.

B. Vacancies in the membership of the commission shall be filled by the Governor, who may receive recommendations therefore from the executive committee of the commission.

§1353. DOMICILE OF COMMISSION; MEETINGS; QUORUM AND VOTE

A. The domicile of the commission shall be in Baton Rouge; however, the commission may hold meetings at other places in the state. Meetings shall be held at the call of the chairman or of the Governor or as otherwise fixed by the commission with approval of the Governor.

B. One-third of the current membership of the commission shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business of the commission, and the vote of a majority of the members present and voting shall be necessary to take any official action. However, any member who finds it impossible to attend a meeting may be represented by a person selected by him and such representative shall have the right to vote for or in the stead of the absent member.

§1354. EXPENSES OF MEMBERS

The members of the commission shall receive no compensation but shall be paid their necessary and actual expenses incurred in connection with attendance at meetings of the commission or on business for the commission assigned by it.

§1355. OFFICERS; EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

A. The officers of the commission shall be a chairman and vice chairman. The Governor shall designate the chairman, and the commission shall elect a vice chairman to serve a two-year term. The chairman shall be the chief executive officer of the commission and shall exercise supervision over all its affairs.

B. The Governor shall appoint an executive director, who shall not be a member of the commission, to serve at his pleasure and at a salary approved by him. The executive director shall serve as secretary to the commission and shall perform such duties as are designated by the commission or its chairman, the executive committee or the Governor.

§1356. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE; OTHER COMMITTEES

A. There shall be an executive committee and such other committees as the commission deems necessary or desirable to fully accomplish the purposes for which it is created.

B. The executive committee shall be composed of the chairman of the commission, ex-officio, and not less than five nor more than nine members of the commission. The chairman of the commission shall serve as chairman of the executive committee. The executive committee, upon a majority vote of the members present and voting, may act for the commission and in its name in the interim between meetings of the commission, however, it shall have no authority to change any action taken by the commission.

C. Minutes of meetings of the executive committee shall be kept by the executive director of the commission, who shall serve as secretary of the committee, and copies thereof shall be distributed to the members of the commission.

§1357. POWERS AND DUTIES

The commission shall serve as the public support group of the Highway Safety Act of 1966 and, through the Governor, shall cooperate with the federal government or any agency thereof for the purpose of increasing highway safety. In furtherance of such purpose it shall be responsible for the preparation of comprehensive, longrange highway safety programs for Louisiana, and in

connection therewith it shall exercise the following powers, duties and functions:

(1) It shall study and evaluate, gather information and prepare and distribute statistical compilations and make recommendations with respect to highway accidents and injuries and deaths and the problems in connection therewith and steps being taken through research, enforcement and otherwise to improve highway safety and reduce highway accidents.

(2) It may cooperate with agencies of the federal government, other states, this state and its political subdivisions to the full extent essential to the carrying out and coordinating of programs of highway safety, and may, with approval of the Governor, take such steps and do such things as are necessary and proper to secure for the state and its political subdivisions the full benefits available under the provisions of the Highway Safety Act of 1966 and any amendments thereto, including but not restricted to such steps as are necessary to obtain federal funds for use within this state for highway safety purposes.

(3) It shall serve as a central clearing house for information and as a coordinating agency for all boards, commissions, departments and agencies of the state and of its political subdivisions as to activities relating to highway safety, its problems, measures being taken to improve highway safety and matters related thereto.

(4) It shall prepare such legislation as it deems necessary or desirable to carry out a comprehensive, long-range highway safety program for the state.

(5) It may adopt, promulgate and amend rules and regulations to govern its actions and also for the carrying out of highway safety programs within the state, including the adoption of highway safety standards.

(6) It may employ and fix the compensation of such employees as it finds necessary for its purposes.*

(7) It shall make such reports to the Governor, the legislature and to the proper agencies of the federal government as are required by law or are directed by any of them or are deemed by the commission to be in the best interests of highway safety programs for Louisiana.

(8) It may do and perform all other things necessary or incidental to the purposes for which it is created, all subject to the ultimate authority and responsibility of the Governor for the administration of highway safety programs within Louisiana.

*The Civil Service Commission is the only body under state law that has the authority to set the pay scale of classified employees.